As of 9/15/76

# POOR LITTLE HALF-CENTS

They were:

A) Made out of any scraps of metal that happened to come along:
   1) T.A.L 95G5, 9764
   2) Cut-down large cents 9762, 1800, 02G1, 95G6, 02G2
   3) Copper trial piece for a half-dollar 95G5
   4) Rotten quality planchets 95G4, Split planchet 09G5
   5) Planchets of the wrong thickness 95G5, 95G6
   6) Irregular-shaped planchets 95G6,
B) Dies were continued in use after they were:
   1) Shattered '97 G4
   2) Broken 03G4; 04G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G11; 06 and G, 08G1, 95G6
   3) Progressively broken several states 04G8, 1811G2 2STAR & 4STAR,
   4) Clashed 94G9, G3, 05G2, 1833 PROOF!, 35G2
   5) Star omitted 28G3
   6) Damaged Spiked Chin '04's 7) Badly recut 97G4, 95G3 MG7, G4
C) Half-cents were put into circulation that were:
   1) Struck off-center 07, 09G1, G2; 25G1, 28G1, 32G1
   2) Not struck at all Blank planchet
   3) Double struck 95G5 over TAL 95G5, 97G3; 04G5, G4, G1; 05G1, 08G2 09G1, G2, G5; 1852 PROOF!,
   4) Triple struck 95G5
   5) Flip-over double struck 95G6, 95G5

1) Struck with large cent dies after being struck as half cents 97G2

6) Struck with another coin still in the press
a) First coins 09G4, G5;

b) Second coins 10 G1 (Partially on other coin) 04 G2 Rev. Brockage, 08G2 Obv. Brockage

c) Sometimes with two blank planchets put in at once 07

d) And sometimes struck again with the first coin out 05G1

D) Some were restruck by the mint for collectors long after the dates they bear
Proofs of 31, 36, 40's, 52

D') Half-cent dies used to test metal alloys for other denoms. 56 C-N

E) Dies were carelessly discarded and used by outsiders to make private restrikes.
1811 Mickley

F) Other outsiders were:
1) Making their own dies to strike copies 96 Dr. Edwards

2) Electro-typing rare varieties 02G1

3) Altering dates 1831 from 1834, 1811

4) Making half-cents of their own design 1837 "token"

G) And worst of all, the mint finally abandoned the poor little half-cents altogether.

Total: 76 coins plus whatever number of restrike proofs are desired.

as of 9/15/76

Errors and Oddities in Coining of U.S

# POOR LITTLE HALF-CENTS

EPN Supplement

Additions as of 9/15/77

They were:

A) Made out of any scraps of metal that happened to be available

1) T.A.L 95G5, 9764 — Struck T.A.L down cut to half cent size

2) Cut-down Struck large cents cut down half cent size 9762, 1800, 02G1, 95G6, 02G2

3) Copper trial piece for a U.S. half-dollar 95G5

4) Rotten quality planchets Defective made planchet 95G4

5) Planchets of the wrong thickness Split planchet 09G5, 95G6

6) Irregular-shaped planchets 95G6, G5

B) Dies were continued in use after they were:

1) Shattered 97G4

2) Broken Clearly Noticeable die breaks 03G4; 04G5, G6, G7, G8, G9, G11; 06 and G, 08G1, 95G6

3) Progressively broken several states 04G8, 1811G2 2 STAR + 4 STAR,

4) Cracked 93G3, 95G2, 1833 PROOF!, 35G2

5) Star omitted 28G3

6) Damaged Split Chin 04G2

7) Badly recut 97G4, 95G3 and G7, G4

C) Half-cents were put into circulation that were:

1) Struck off-center strikes 07, 09G1, G2; 25G1, 28G1, 32G1

2) Not struck at all unstruck planchet Blank planchet

3) Double struck 95G5 over TTAL 95G5, 97G3; 04G5, G2 G4, G1; 05G1, 08G2 09G1, G2, G5; 1852 PROOF!,

4) Triple struck 95G5, 09G2

5) Flip-over double struck 95G6, 95G5

10) Misaligned so that date didn't show '94

7) Struck with large cent dies after being ~~struck~~ originally coined as half cents 9762

6) Struck with ~~another~~ coin still in the press

Defects caused by failure to remove previously struck

a) ~~First~~ coins 0862 ~~0862~~ 0964, G5;

b) ~~Second~~ coins 10 G1 (Partially on other coin) 04 G2 Rev. Brockage, 0862 Obv. Brockage

c) Sometimes with two blank planchets put in at once 07, 0962

d) And sometimes struck again with the first coin out 05G-1

D) Some were restruck by the mint for collectors ~~many years~~ several occasions ~~long~~ after the dates they bear

Proofs of 31, 36, 40's, 52

D') Half-cent dies used to test metal alloys for other denoms. 56 C-N

E) Dies were carelessly discarded and used by outsiders ~~to make private restrikes~~.

1811 Mickley

F) Other outsiders were:

1) Making ~~their own~~ new dies ~~to strike copies~~ '96 Dr. Edwards

2) Electro-typing rare varieties 0261

3) Altering dates 1831 from 1834, 1811 from

New category 4) Making half-cents of their own design 1837 "token"

G) And worst of all, the mint finally abandoned the poor little half-cents altogether.

Total: 76 ~~84~~ coins plus whatever number restrike proofs are desired.

# CANDIDES

This isn't supposed to be the last word on the subject. More like the first word, really. In the hope that some of you out there will contribute some words, too.

What is the subject? Half-cent errors. And other oddities. Anything a bit unusual in half cents. That's one of the questions I want to ask you, by the way. Just what should be included in this category, which I call Candides?

At the ANA in Cincinatti a number of us who enjoy half-cents were talking. Just the usual small talk. "What did you find?"

"Nothing! How about you?"

"Nothing, either. How can there be so many weirdos interested in silver dollars? No one has any nice half-cents."

"Oh, I did find a double-struck '04. Very low grade. Like to see it?"

"Sure. I like that kind of thing. Hey, that's a good one!"

One word led to another. We realized that several of us were interested in odd half-cents. And we knew a few other people who had some, too. Was there anything written on the subject? No-one could recall ever having seen even an article. Just the occasional description of a lot in an auction.

Yet we all agreed that probably more unusual things had happened in the making of half-cents than in any other area of U.S. coinage. Somebody ought to write about it. In Penny Wise, of course. So somebody volunteered. Me. With the understanding

that suggestions, comments, and criticisms are not just welcome, but eagerly sought. That's why this is being written.

Well, for openers, how to classify these half-cent misadventures? Three main categories come to mind.

A) Unusual pieces of metal
B) Unusual dies
C) Unusual events in the manufacturing process.

A) Sometimes it seems that half-cents planchets were made out of any pieces of copper that happened to be available:

1) Talbot, Allum + Lee tokens
2) Spoiled large cents
3) Copper patterns of half dollars
4) Poor quality planchets
5) Irregularly shaped planchets
6) Planchets of improper thickness and weight

B) And the dies! Dies were put into use that were:

1) Missing parts of the design (stems, the pole, a star)
2) Crudely recut (97 C1, overdates)
3) Including an extra detail (95 C2),

and continued in use after they had been:

4) Clashed
5) Damaged (04 Spiked chin)
6) Broken (11 C1)
7) Progressively broken (04 C6)
8) Shattered (97 C1)

C) Careless? Half-cents were put into circulation that were

1) Struck off-center
2) Double struck
3) Double struck with an obverse + reverse on each side
4) Not struck at all
5) Struck in years other than their dates

6) Struck with an already struck coin still in the press

8) Struck with two blank planchets in the press at the same time.

7) And sometimes struck again with the first coin removed

9) Struck on alloys being tested for small cents (56)

10) Struck outside the mint from carelessly discarded mint dies (11)

They there are combinations of two or more of the above. But ~~I~~ you get the idea. ~~And~~ Maybe you can understand why some of us think these old half-cents are such fun. (over)

There are two other kinds of coins I haven't included. One is the group of dies with the minor cracks that were common in most early U.S coins. The other is the group of half-cents that had no mint connection whatsoever. These include

1) Forgeries (Dr. Edwards' 96)
2) Electrotypes (I even have an electrotype of the forgery!)
3) Altered dates
4) The half-cent token (37)

Which brings us to the questions:

A) What kinds of half-cents should be included in this category of unusual items?

B) How should they be classified?

C) Who out there has specimens and of what varieties?

D) ~~Would you be interested in a survey?~~

Would you be interested in a survey?

I'll volunteer to serve as clearinghouse, if you would like me to. Write: RT

⊗ ~~among other reasons~~ # Moreover, they have ~~pretty~~ much avoided two of the ~~problems~~ complaints one reads so often about in PW. High condition is not very important. Prices haven't inflated much. Usually if you can find them you can afford them.

Ha-penny quotes

Title: Errors, special, funny, unusual

I. Material
II. Dies
III Process

I. A. Second hand copper
1. T.A. + L.
2. Cut down large cents
3. " " trial pieces for half-dollars
B. Very poor planchets
C. Wrong weight
D. Wrong shape

II. A. Errors in design
1. Stemless reverse ~~B. No pole~~
2. 12 stars
3. No pole
B. Crude preparation
1. 1/1
2. Overdates (?)
C. Damaged
1. By foreign objects - spiked chin
2. By clashing
3. By breaking (1797 X, 1804 reverse, 2 star, 4 star, cap
D. Unauthorized use in mint
1. Restrikes out of date
2. Weird mulings
E. Unauthorized use outside of mint
1. Mickley restrikes
F. Private dies
1. 1837 token
2. Dr. Edwards copy

III. A. Off-center
B. Double-strike
1. Chatter
2. Straight-line
3. Rotated
4. Flip over
5. Combinations
C. Triple strike
D. Misaligned
E. Breakage
1) Partial
F. Surface
1) Partial
G. Combinations

~~IV~~ Omitted
A. Alterations + other post-mfr.
B. Fine cracks
C. Die scratches
D. Die recutting, polishing, and strengthening
E. Minor die rust

# CANDIDES

BIRM ?

RIDDLE: What is a Birm ? ? ?

To those of you who know, congratulations on your erudition. To those of you who know not, but who, are seekers after knowledge, persevere. The answer is to be found further along in this small ~~article~~ letter. Actually this ~~letter~~ itself is just a Question put to fellow Cyprophiliacs. So the Answer to the Riddle, when you reach it, will be seen to be an Answer within a Question.

Cyprophiliacs

"The trouble with Beginnings," my grandfather used to say, "is that they are so hard to recognize. You can be standing right there, in the middle of a Beginning, and not know it." He would pull out a tattered letter, dated Oct. 16th, 1929. It was on fine paper, with engraved letterhead from the eminent Wall Street house of Morgan Stanley. It was signed by their senior partner, Mr. Morgan. "To our distinguished clients," he would read, "There has been a little nervousness on the exchange." Sometimes, when he read it, tears would come into Grandfather's eyes.

But then he would generalize. Most Beginnings in life are hard to recognize. Beginnings of Great Events, of widespread significance. Beginnings of Small Events with only personal meaning. And he would digress into a warm anecdote about the first time he met my Grandmother. Even as a boy I realized that this anecdote came in two versions. One, which appeared when it was told in my grandmother's presence, in the parlor, was ... other came both when she was not present, in the kitchen, ... caressing ... one of her great, endless dinner parties. This account ... remarkable ... version evolved over the years ... and added interest, ... Grandfather was a remarkable man. But wrong. Contrary to medical belief, and contrary to

[Reverse]

It was the 1804 Cohen #6 of anecdotes. What a marvelous thing is memory! And so, ... on added detail.

The

failings
the ~~qualities~~ of lesser men, Grandfather's memory actually improved as he got older! I was in awe of him then, and remain so to this day. (X)

At any rate, Grandfather used to tell me that all it took to be successful ~~&~~ and happy for an entire lifetime was to recognize one large Beginning and five small ones.

~~The~~ Beginning of this particular project ~~which~~ occured in Cincinatti, at the ~~A~~A.C. It was neither a large one nor a small one. It was more of a ~~fairly big one~~ wee event than that, a Micro Beginning, if you please. If it had not been for Grandfather, certainly I ~~do~~ should not have recognized it at all!

So here is the article for Penny-Wise I promised, lads.

~~It~~ obviously is ~~not~~ the opposite end of the continuum from a Last Word. Because individual coins have been carefully studied and described before by experts, ~~many~~ most of whom are ~~as~~ members of EAC, this can hardly be called a First Word. But because we are unaware of any general article on the subject, it is an Early Word!

Which brings us by a curious circumlocution... back to the Riddle with which I first addressed your kind attention. The promised Answer, which some among you have surely by now deduced, is: A Birm is what an Early Word gets.

So please send me your Birms. And, as a special form of thanks, I will send each person who ~~does~~ sends me his Birm, and who asks, my explanation of why these half-cents ought to be called Candides.

⊗ Readers who are interested in a fuller exposition of my Grandfather's ideas on Beginnings are referred to his seminal article:

Prof. L. Tettenhorst On Beginnings
Midwestern Journal of Insignificant Philosophy, ~~May 1938~~ May, 1936, pp. 126–153. It is also referred to in the literature as Tettenhorst on Beginnings and was ~~I believe~~ reprinted separately under that title.